The Future of the American Soldier.

No task is more difficult, either for an individual or a nation, than to cut loose from the deeprooted prejudices of an early education; for nations have their school time no less than individuals. National ideas can be traced back as clearly to the races from which the nation has | dom. sprung, to the blood which has run in its veins for centuries, to the fundamental opinions which have characterized that nation or those races in all their onward progress, as to the temporary or proximate causes to which alone we are accustomed, in ordinary speculations, to attribute them. In no point is this truth more evident than in the general ideas which prevail amongst our people, and which are frequently uttered by our press, with regard to the American soldier. It has become a habit with both Southern and Northern public journals to speculate upon the possibilities of peace, and to anticipate that with it there will come a very practical difficulty in disposing of our soldiers. It is generally suggested that it will be desirable, perhaps absolutely necessary, to embroil ourselves with some foreign Power, either with England, to attack Canada, or more probably with France, to carry out the Monroe doctrine by driving Maximilian from his throne, and so preventing the cession of Sonora or any other provinces on this continent

to a European Power. A foreign war, in which the soldiers now consupposed, not only have the effect of obliterating the recollections of past feads, by the interposition of one more recent, and by substituting for the hatred of one another the hatred of a common foe, but would find the only fitting use and the only safe employment for all those adventur-ous spirits whose love of excitement has been so stimulated by war, whose natural recklessness has been assiduously cultivated, and in whom the exigencies of service have originated and developed such ideas respecting the rights and properties of others that they would no longer be safe inhabitants of a peaceable, free country. Of course this doctrine is not put forward in all its naked deformity, nor do the defenders of it desire to carry it to its logical conclusion by conuntil all these unquiet spirits have found their resting place in a soldier's grave; but the idea which secretly prevails has not been overstated. Even those who have friends, relatives, perhaps

fathers and brothers, risking their lives for the great cause of united free America, seem to look some sort not so well behaved, not so trustworthy in ordinary life, as the quiet citizens of the republic. This idea is solely and purely an Anglo-Saxon inheritance, a fallacy which we have brought with us from England, an idea inbred in our natures, and one, therefore, which we cling to in spite of its groundlessness and its utter incapability to the circumstances under which our noble army has been raised, officered and disciplined.

When a Norman army invaded England and obtained possession of its Government, it was natural that the mass of the people should look with hatred and distrust upon their conquerors and the instruments with which they enforced their tyranny. From that day to this the English army has consisted of a class distinct from the great bulk of the people. It is to-day offi-cered almost, if not entirely, from the privileged classes. The soldier, on the other hand, is taken from the very dregs of the population, and, as a consequence, the army is held together only by iron discipline. Such an army is, by its very organization, quite removed from the sympathics and antagonistic to the feelings of the great middle classes, who form the bulk of the people of England, who are the mainstay of its liberty and the great fountain of its commercial prosperity. It is, therefore, just such an army as could be most efficiently used as a political weapon, should opportunity occur. It would be unnecessary to trace the relation of the English army to the English people through the intervening pages of their history from the Norman conquest to the

present day. Substantially, the relation above described is that which they have held towards one another. An army of the dimensions of ours, organized like that of England, and like that officered, would indeed be dangerous to our freedom if kept together after the end of the war, and yet hardly less dangerous if disbanded. In the one case, if it did not become the instrument by which some ambitious man would build a despotism on the ruined liberties of the people, it might be because the magnitude of the instrument demanded a giant hand to wield it, and no giant hand was there. On the other hand, the letting loose upon society of a vast untutored brute force, untrained for aught save war, accustomed to respect and obey a class with whom it was impossible for them to come in contact with except as servants, and having neither political, social nor commercial instincts in common with the mass of the people around, could only be a great disturbing element, capable of little but evil.

Thrice in the history of the Anglo-Saxon people, an army has been organized on very different principles from those already described. Once, the middle classes rose in their strength, and under Cromwell, hurled a despotie King from that throne which he or his counsellors endeavored to convert into an altar on which all the religious and civil liberties of his people were to be sacri-

Again, a free people rose under Washington, and from the colonies of America made this great nation the pillar and champion of freedom. A third time to complete the work left undone by the Fathers of the country, to maintain inviolate the Constitution and the Union intrusted to our keeping-the people of America have arisen with extraordinary unanimity. The standing armies of Europe present no analogies to these three great Anglo-Saxon armies of liberty, and more especially to ours of to-day. They are levied for destruction; this to preserve and construct. They are armies of kings; this an army of people. They, officered by privileged classes, by years of severe training, succeed in converting a class held by the exigencies of poverty in a position only less degrading than that of the slave, in that it recognizes their freedom, into machine soldiers, capable of great daring and great endurance, but entirely dependent upon their leaders for guidance. The American army sprang at once, almost ready made, from counting-house, store and workshop-each individual brought the keen intelligence which he had hitherto devoted to his private business, to learning that new profession to which patriotism summoned him. In days he accomplished the work of months. In a few months he became a veteran equal to the trained soldiers possessing years of experience. In artillery, the most difficult of arms, a volunteer field force was organized which, in a single year, could not have been surpassed, hardly perhaps equaled, by any regular artillery holding the field on long

A race unaccustomed to the saddle have raised a cavalry which, though often beaten at the commencement of the war, never lost confidence and was never discouraged, and has ended by becoming the type upon which its antagonists are trying to organize a force able to withstand it. A volunteer engineer corps has constructed bridges over larger rivers and more rapid streams than have ever been bridged by an army before; have made surveys of the most elaborate and accurate description, stretching over a vast extent of country ; have thrown up works exhibiting a capacity of resistance equal to the choicest productions of the European schools. A volunteer infantry has shown unequaled endurance under hardship, un-

lines of communication.

failing courage under defeat, brilliant persever ance under difficulties-qualities supposed to be the peculiar virtues of the veteran. It has achieved victories over men of the same race, led by the ablest officers the Southern aristocracy could produce, educated at the expense of the Union they betraved. It has assaulted works deemed impregnable by good judges, made marches without parallel, campaigned over snow-clad mountains as difficult of access as the Alps or the Apennines, over rivers larger than any Europe contains-and it has accomplished all this under the inspiration of pure patriotism and the exalted love of free-

Above all it has developed Generals whose previous experience was at the outside limited to commanding a company of infantry or cavalry against an Indian tribe; a few of whom, nevertheless, whether we consider their disposition of UNDERSHIRTS, SOCKS, AND DRAWERS troops in action, their handling of enormous bodies of men, their strategical maneuvers through campaigns involving advances of hundreds of miles, the personal influence they exert upon their men, or the brilliant and sound originality they have shown in some of their maneuvers, are without equal in modern days-Napoleon himself alone excepted.

When the armies of Cromwell and Washington laid down the sabers they had taken up for popular liberty, and returned each man to his plow, his workshop, his store, history has recorded that they were remarkable for their valuable qualities as citizens; honest, upright, industrious, with minds disciplined by the career they had gone through, by the dangers they had met, the difficulties they had overcome, and the death they had so often freely faced. They became the ornaments of the countries they had fought for, tending for victory in every Southern State might | the noble expounders of the liberty they had won. fight side by side in a common cause, would, it is | So will the American soldier of to-day; the task he imposed upon himself once accomplished, the Union preserved, the Constitution respected, liberty secured, returning to his daily path in life a better citizen than he left it .- Army and

Fill Your Own Place.

It takes all sorts of characters to complete the great world-drama, and somebody must act them. In other words, I believe that every man has his place in the world, and that he was made specially for that place. It is only by earnestly filling that place that he fulfills his destiny, and answers the end for which God created him. Confusion and disappointment only arise from our efforts to tinuing to make war upon some foreign power | get into some other place than the one for which we are intended. The change of our choice is limited by the character God has given to us, and the circumstances by which he bath surrounded us, and which have modified that character, and developed those faculties. Each man is created with certain possibilities which determine the upon their own friends as the exception, and have | direction he must go, and the height to which he a latent idea that a soldier's life is full of special | may rise. We need not, therefore, remain in temptations, of unusually demoralizing tenden- doubt. Our path is so plainly marked out for us, Butter Crackers, cies, and that the soldiers of its armies are in | that we need not seek long for it, if we have willing hearts and willing hands to do it.

"No man is born into the world whose work Is not born with him; there is always work And tools to work withal, for those who will."

The same power that created you, and trained you for your work, has brought that work for you. Do not go out of your way to seek for something grand and imposing to do, but take | Split Peas, up at once the simplest and plainest duty that lies before you, and you will not go wrong. Do not stand waiting for signs and wonders to reveal to you what God would have you do, but listen to the voices within you and around you calling you to work. Trust those voices, have faith in humble things; then God will seek you, and light and strength be given to you as your path opens wider and higher before your advancing footsteps. I believe God calls men to humble duties as well as great ones, for to Him all duty is equally great; and woe be to him who disregards that call. We are willing to recognize this call to the ministry; then why not the other pursuits of life? Is preaching the gospel the only duty that God recognizes? It is because we wait for God to manifest himself in the lightning and thunder, that we fail to hear his voice in our hearts, and in the indication of circumstances about us, and thus go astray, groping our way blindly, and stumbling on our way in darkness and doubt. No man ever accomplished much who had not this idea of vocation, who did not feel that he was called of God to do that very thing .- Prof.

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